



HAVERHILL & DISTRICT

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laugh,
live

News and Views

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HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

February 2024

Our 30th Year

From the Chair

Our A.G.M. is next month and you should all have received a copy of the Agenda together with the accounts, from the chair report, treasurer's report and a copy of the minutes from the A.G.M. last year. The current committee are all prepared to stand again.

Although costs are increasing, with the past prudence of the committee together with support from Haverhill Council, we are able to keep the membership fee the same as the last few years. The committee will obviously have to consider this next year. One way all our members who are U.K. tax payers can help is to subscribe to gift aid. This means that for your £10.00 membership fee the government will give us an extra £2.50, so please if you do not already do this please consider doing so.



I am writing this on one of several very wet days so this picture of some primroses taken by me in the grounds of Clare Priory is cheering me up and I hope will do the same for you.

Barbara Lavender

Speaker's Corner

On the 30th January, we were pleased to welcome an archivist from Suffolk Archives, Judith Berry, at the Arts Centre to tell us about the work of the Suffolk Archives which is the home to 900 years of Suffolk's history captured through thousands of documents. They are open for everyone to discover the past through their nationally and internationally significant collections.

The Suffolk Archives collections are treasure houses of information in the form of original documents such as letters, reports, photographs, maps and plans which have been selected for preservation because of their lasting value to our society. Whether you want to research your house's history, or Suffolk family history, they may have the document/map you are looking for. Please see their comprehensive website for details on how to book an appointment and list the items you wish to view.

Next month, Tuesday 27th February, Neil Hanson will be giving a talk entitled "The Inn at the Top" which follows Neil's time at the Tan Hill Inn (located in the desolate landscape of the Yorkshire Dales) where he was grappling with tight-fisted farmers, eccentric characters, bizarre local customs, naturist weekends, "lates and lock ins", police raids.....!

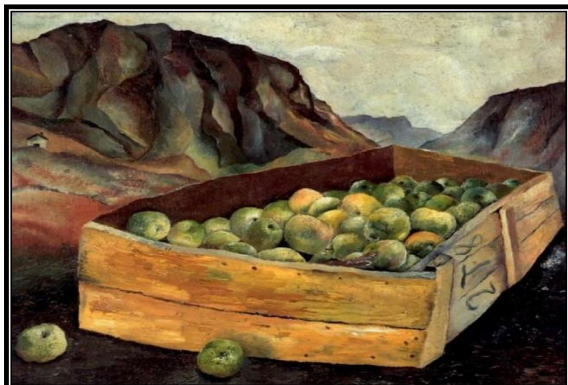
Doors & refreshments open at 10.00, speaker at 10.30.

Sue Dickinson

Art Appreciation Group

Art Appreciation is proving sufficiently popular for members of the Haverhill u3a to have started a second group because meeting in members' homes rather restricts the number of members we can accommodate at any time. We look forward to perhaps organizing joint meetings should we make outside visits to galleries, etc. in the future. What do we call our groups though? Groups 1 and 2 sounds a little bland even though correct. Thinking caps on guys!

In the meantime, our original group had a busy first meeting of 2024 considering the theme of "Unexpected" and we looked at works by artists whose oeuvre we may regard as recognisable or familiar, but selecting examples which were more surprising. This was wide-ranging as one might expect and included amongst others, works by Munch (not The Scream in this case), the public art of Gormley's Angel of The North (perhaps versus Haverhill's Spirit of Enterprise), smaller early work by Lucien Freud (such as Box of Apples in Wales), the ever-contentious Caravaggio (his St Catherine, using a famous courtesan as model for a saint – shock, horror!), Mondrian's slightly furtive sideline of painting flowers as opposed to his familiar rectilinear blocks of colour.



Most poignantly, aside from her famous tent and bed artworks, we considered Tracey Emin's painted bronze sculptures of "lost" articles of baby clothing such as a tiny mitten positioned on the railings outside London's Foundling Museum and similar items at several sites in Folkestone.



The inversely proportional impact of the size of Emin's artworks to the enormity of whether a small child is wanted and experiences care and love is simply profound.

Neil Dickinson

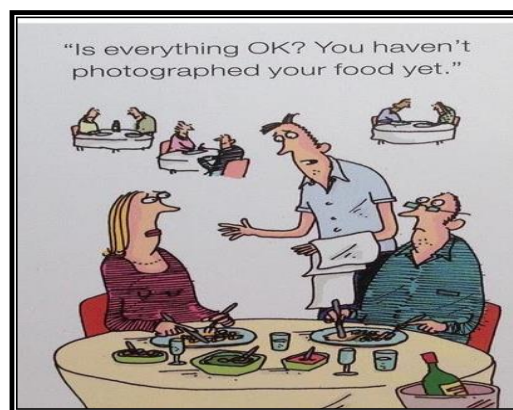
Singing for Pleasure

Our late Christmas Social was held on Monday 22nd January when we all stopped our singing to enjoy hot mince pies and tea plus a fun raffle.

Our thanks to Claudette & Michael for arranging our tea and to Sandra for organising the raffle. Their help was very much appreciated.

This was a very enjoyable afternoon and has put us all in good spirits for our new singing programme. The leaders of the group were grateful when surprise gifts were presented to them and expressed their grateful thanks. Our numbers have reached 40 but we still have room for more. Don't forget singing is good for us – so if you are interested do come along on the fourth Monday of the month at St Mary's Church Hall 1:30 p.m. where you will receive a warm welcome.

Aldine Horrigan



Sunday Strollers

After a serious amount of rainfall the twelve Strollers who met for the February walk agreed a change of route would be our best option.

Instead of tramping around soaking field edge paths, a walk around Keddington visiting sites of historical interest was embarked on.

I think we all enjoyed this diversion from the norm. Hopefully the weather will be better for our next walk. This will be on Sunday 10th of March commencing from Station Road in Linton and we will walk for 3.25 miles; there will be no stiles.

David Jefferies

Art Appreciation 2

The new Art Appreciation Group held their first meeting in January. The theme for this meeting was left very open and everyone brought along a piece of art that they liked or had some meaning for them.

We started by considering the largest piece, the huge Angel of the North sculpture by Anthony Gormley a piece of public art that can be seen from the A1 motorway. We then had two paintings depicting war-like situations. Guernica, Picasso's grey, white and black painting portraying the violence and chaos following the Nazi's devastating bombing of the town of Guernica and Judith Beheading Holofernes by Artemisia Gentileschi, a very successful female Baroque painter.

We then looked at some gentler subjects. The Milkmaid by Vermeer that depicts a woman pouring milk in a dairy, totally absorbed by her work and a charming painting, Charlotte's Pony by Suffolk born artist Sir Alfred Munnings, with a country woman leading her gentle pony in a rural setting. We also considered one of Canaletto's wonderful paintings of Venice, showing the Basin of San Marco on Ascension Day that captures a very popular annual festivity in 18th century Venice.

Waiting for Grandpa by Helen Bradley rounded up our selection, another gentle painting. Helen Bradley only began

painting in her sixties but her naive style, similar to Lowry's, has made her very collectible and her paintings are now worth thousands of pounds.

The theme for our February meeting is Winter.

Hilary Thomas



Next Meetings:

Tuesday 27th February 2024
Tuesday 26th March 2024

Deadline for the Rolling Screen:

Tuesday 19th March 2024
e-mail to chair@haverhillu3a.com

Deadline for next edition:

Friday 15th March 2024

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